

INTELLOFAX 3

DATE DIST. 6 October 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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INTRODUCTION: On 2 October, for the first time, Moscow itself discusses at length the new situation with regard to the atomic bomb. The only new notes introduced, however, are a claim that President Truman's policy is now being criticized even by "certain layers of the ruling circles," and a more direct use of the fear of atomic retaliation as a basis for appealing to the American "people" to oppose the policy of their rulers. As Ehrenburg puts it, "Sensible people (in America) fully realize that from Moscow to Philadelphia it is as far as from Philadelphia to Moscow."

These commentaries on the atomic bomb are geared in with the enormously increased emphasis on war and peace, which coincides with the celebration of "International Peace Day" on 2 October. Emphasis in Soviet radio propaganda as a whole seems to have shifted from devaluation and other evidences of western economic crisis (a theme which received more attention than the peace theme as recently as a week ago) to the topic of war and peace. As always, the chief subthemes are simple accusations of western warmaking and simple claims that the unity and determination of the "people" throughout the world will keep the warmakers from unleashing a new war. In the current output these are regularly combined with references to the Soviet campaign in the U.N. for a peace pact and for prohibiting atomic weapons; and there are frequent references to the policy of "atomic blackmail" by the United States, which is said to be no longer possible. There has not yet been any monitored discussion of the specific issues involved in control of atomic energy: inspection, ownership, the veto, etc. The latest commentaries also avoid such issues.

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MARININ: As yet the only extended commentary specifically on the new atomic situation is by Marinin in PRAVDA. Attacking President Truman's policy in an unusually personal way, he ridicules the former "illusion" that the USSR did not have the bomb, and asserts a rising opposition to the President's policy:

"Truman has obviously miscalculated, trying for the sake of his shady political game to dish up to the world as a sensation the existence of the atomic weapon in the Soviet Union. He appeared before the American public and before the entire world in an abject coat of mail of a knight errant of the notorious atomic diplomacy, whose crisis is becoming evident. Only a few days back, the ruling American circles denied the existence of the atomic weapon in the Soviet Union. The illusion as to the monopoly on the possession of the atomic weapon became one of the sources of the delirious imperialist strivings of the ruling American circles and one of the mainstays of 'atomic diplomacy,' which made a principle out of the so-called 'cold war.' That is the policy of blackmail and international ventures.

"Now, then, do the ruling American circles conceive the further development of foreign policy?...Truman: idently did not reckon on obtaining in response such a sharp criticism of the U.S. course of foreign policy from considerable strata of the American public. Even certain layers of the ruling circles perceive the inevitable catastrophe in a further continuation of Truman's line, and therefore insist upon this line being abandoned..." (References to Lawrence and to Lippman). (TASS, in English to North America, 2 October 1949. Also broadcast to Soviet home audience, and in Czech, German and Spanish.)

EHRENBURG: As is often true, Ilya Ehrenburg departs from the usual Soviet policy in the concreteness of his anticipation of military events; he clearly anticipates a possible use of the bomb in retaliation:

"Everyone knows that if the United States robbers start a war it will not be confined to the old world, but will extend to America. Sensible people fully realize that from Moscow to Philadelphia it is as far as from Philadelphia to Moscow.... We are not asleep. We are not looking the other way. We are watching you, and every move you make. we will not allow you to lift your arm; (if you do) we will knock the knife out of your hand..." (Soviet Home Service, 2 October 1949)

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